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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 16 May 1951

SUBJECT Volkspolizeidienststelle in Brandenburg

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.ICE COPY
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. Prior to 13 February 1951, a VP Dienststelle (command headquarters) (VPD) was located in the modern Artillerie Kaserne in Hohenstuecken, on the western perimeter of Brandenburg. The unit had a total strength of about 2,000 police organized into a Stabskommando, three infantry Kommandos, one artillery Kommando and seven Sonderabteilungen. The Stabskommando consisted of mechanics, kitchen personnel, medical personnel and drivers employed at the headquarters. It was subordinate to the assistant chief of staff. Each of the other Kommandos was organized into five Abteilungen of about 50 police each, with three Zug to an Abteilung, and three Gruppen to a Zug. The Sonderabteilungen had consecutive numerical designations, the first being a reconnaissance unit, the second a signal unit, the third an AAA unit, the fourth a mortar unit, the fifth an engineer unit, the sixth an AT artillery unit and the seventh an armored unit. The organization specified allegedly was the standard organization of the new-type VPDs after the reorganization of the Volkspolizei in December 1950.
2. Officers of the VPD included VP Inspekteur Wagner, operations officer; VP Oberrat Drelling, PK officer; VP Oberrat Saenger, chief of staff; VP Kommandeur Ziolk, director of training; VP Kommissar Roth, personnel officer; VP Kommissar Matzigkeit, assistant chief of staff; VP Rat Hoffmann, administrative officer; VP Oberrat Ochs, operations officer of 1st Kommando (Inf); VP Kommissar Borgmann, commanding officer of 1st Sonderabteilung (Ren); VP Kommissar Knohlauch, PK officer of 1st Sonderabteilung (Ren); and VP Oberkommissar Zechlin, commanding officer of 7th Sonderabteilung (Armd). One of the five Soviet liaison officers held the rank of VP Inspekteur, two the rank of VP Kommandeur and two the rank of VP Oberrat. The Soviet officers, who supervised the VP training and communicated with the VP officers only through interpreters, were said to be tank, artillery, infantry and reconnaissance experts.
3. Each Zug of an infantry Kommando numbered 12 to 15 police and was equipped with an undetermined number of models 98 and 98-K rifles and one model 34 machine gun. The artillery Kommando had only infantry arms and was engaged

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Auth: HQ 78-2

Date: 19 AUG 1980

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in infantry training, since artillery pieces were not yet available. The 1st Sonderabteilung (Acm) had infantry arms and conducted infantry training. Only one model Jawa motorcycle was available, but it was planned to equip the 1st and 2d Zug, each of which had 20 police organized into three Gruppen, with one motorcycle and two sidecar motorcycles each, the sidecar motorcycles having mounted machine guns. The 3d Zug was to be equipped with bicycles. The 2d Sonderabteilung (Sig) had infantry arms and conducted infantry training. It was equipped with field telephones, but **had** no radio sets. The 4th Sonderabteilung (Mort) had infantry arms and three Soviet mortars of about 80 mm caliber. Training with the mortars was done only in the ordnance hall. The 5th Sonderabteilung (Ingr) practiced the construction of makeshift footbridges and ferries and received technical indoctrination. No engineer or demolition equipment was available. The 6th Sonderabteilung (AT Arty) was equipped with small arms and trained in a locked shed with one Soviet AT gun. The 7th Sonderabteilung (Armd) was equipped with an old T-34 tank, a Soviet SP gun on a T-34 chassis and two ammunition carriers allegedly of British origin. The training with armored vehicles was conducted only in a closed ordnance hall. The motor vehicle equipment of the VPD as of mid-February included 11 ZIS trucks, 1 Horch truck, 1 ambulance, 4 passenger cars, 3 Jawa motorcycles and 1 Jawa motorcycle.

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4. The VPD included a telephone exchange, operated by women, which probably was connected with the postal net, and a teletypewriter. Nothing was known of the existence of a radio station. Motorcycle couriers were dispatched by the VPD to the INA and to VP Bereitschaften in Prenzlau, Zittau, Kochstedt, and Eggesin.
5. The morale of the VPD personnel was rather low since, despite all promises, the unit was inadequately equipped with weapons, equipment and motor vehicles and therefore was engaged in monotonous infantry training most of the time. The older men of the trained personnel, such as the VP Hauptwachtmeister, were especially ill-humored as they had to serve in the ranks.
6. Following a complete stop in the induction of VP replacements prior to the final examinations in November 1950, up to 10 police recruits started arriving daily in Hohenstuecken at the beginning of December 1950. The recruits were under 20 years of age and almost all of them belonged to the FDJ or GMD. Upon deactivation of the VP Bereitschaft in Pinnow near Angermunde, about 150 police averaging one year of VP training, were transferred to Hohenstuecken and used almost exclusively for the activation of the 7th Sonderabteilung (Armd). The other Sonderabteilungen were organized from personnel coming from Kirchmoosier near Brandenburg. *

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* Comment. The organization of the VPD in Brandenburg-Hohenstuecken agrees with that of other VPDs reported since February 1951 and may be considered the standard organization of all VPDs. The strength estimate of 2,000 police appears too high, since other VPDs were reported to number only from 1,500 to 1,600 police who usually break down into about 1,300 trained personnel and about 200 new VP candidates. According to a previous report, the VPD in Brandenburg-Hohenstuecken was assigned cover No 2511 in late January 1951, superseding cover No 207/11.

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